



SHARPE JAMES
COUNCILMAN
NEWARK, N.J. 07102



APRIL
25th
19 72

Miss Bernice Bass
109 Keer Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07112

Re: Rev. Charles E. Thomas

Dear Bernice:

Please be advised as per your discussion on WNJR's News and Views, that legal questions were raised during the pre-conference and in interviewing Rev. Thomas on the possibility of a conflict of interest if appointed to the Newark Housing Commission; due to receipt of and continued negotiations between the New Hopewell Baptist Church and the NHA. Thus it was decided that we should have a legal ruling from Corporation Counsel William Walls.

Mr. Walls ruled that if appointed to the Commission Rev. Thomas would be required to submit a signed affidavit removing him from all activities and transactions surrounding the New Hopewell Baptist Church.

However, far from the above satisfactory position ruled by the Corporation Counsel, and in view of the fact that for some two hours during the Council Meeting he was subject to the worse kinds of overt racism. It was felt that to pursue this matter again in the public arena would have been like putting salt on a wound, and for this reason I choosed not to aid the cause of bigotry and the mobsters who are dictating the voting record of the white majority Council members in this instance.

This was not the time to yell out "fire" in a crowded theater. The crowd and/or majority Council members were already programmed.

Respectfully yours,

cc: G. Woodruff